

Minutes of the Work Session Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Sunday, August 27, 2006 – 12:00 p.m.
Monday, August 28, 2006 – 8:00 a.m.
Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area
7 Miles Southeast of Eagar, Arizona

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director's Staff)

Chairman Joe Melton
Commissioner Michael M. Golightly
Commissioner William H. McLean
Commissioner Robert Hernbrode
Commissioner Jennifer L. Martin

Director Duane L. Shroufe
Deputy Director Steve K. Ferrell
Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk
Assistant Attorney General Shelley Cutts

Chairman Melton called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. This work session meeting was for informational purposes and was a question and answer session between the Commission and the Department. No action was taken by the Commission on any items. This meeting followed an agenda revision dated August 21, 2006.

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1. The Rules Process

Presenter: Dustin McKissen, Rules and Risk Management

Mr. McKissen briefed the Commission on the rules process and provided an informational handout. The presentation focused on how new rules, as well as changes to existing rules, are developed, reviewed by staff and the public, and approved or rejected by the Commission, as well as the Governor's Regulatory Review Council. Discussion followed with a question and answer period on the rules process, as well as other rule related subjects.

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2. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Land Management Planning Process

Presenter: Bob Broscheid, Habitat Branch Chief

Mr. Broscheid presented the Commission with an overview of BLM's land management planning process in Arizona. Mike Taylor from BLM was present and participated in the briefing and discussion. Rebecca Davidson and Laura Canaca, from the Department's Habitat Branch provided an example project analysis of a wildlife management activity proposed within an area managed for wilderness characteristics, visual resource management, and other allocations. Discussion with the Commission ensued regarding the topics presented.

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3. Heritage Fund Allocations and Process

Presenter: Steve Ferrell, Deputy Director

Mr. Ferrell presented the Commission with a complete overview of the process for allocating Heritage Funds and the history of the fund. An informational Heritage Grant Cycle Fact Sheet was provided to the Commission. Ty Gray, Education Branch Chief, briefed the Commission on potential projects and ideas for Environmental Education and Non-governmental Organization (NGO) grants. Discussion and a question and answer period followed the conclusion of the presentation.

Commissioner Hernbrode expressed a desire to see grant projects for teachers as they relate to Aims testing.

NGO grants will be scheduled as a future agenda item.

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4. Proposed Location Change for the March and December Arizona Game and Fish Commission Meetings for 2007

Presenter: Steve Ferrell, Deputy Director

The Commission was advised that it may be necessary to exchange locations for the March and December Commission meetings for 2007. The exchange in location would move the March Commission meeting to Casa Grande and the December Commission meeting to Tucson. This will be a future agenda item in which the Commission will be asked to vote.

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5. Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to speak.

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Meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.

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Monday, August 28, 2006 – 8:00 a.m.

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Chairman Melton called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The meeting continued as a work session for informational purposes and was a question and answer session between the Commission and the Department. No action was taken by the Commission on any items. This meeting followed an agenda revision dated August 21, 2006.

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1. Public Work Session on Deer Management in Arizona

Presenters: Leonard Ordway, Game Branch Chief
Brian Wakeling, Big Game Programs Supervisor
Jim Heffelfinger, Game Specialist, Region V
Chantal O'Brien, Research Branch Chief

The Commission was provided with a complete overview of deer management activities in Arizona. A Power Point presentation was used and informational material was provided to the Commission. Topics included Mule Deer and White-tailed Deer Management Guidelines, Deer Hunt Guidelines, survey methodology and protocol, population trend assessment, hunt-permit recommendation process, current research on deer management issues, and deer habitat development and enhancement. Discussion ensued in regards to the topics presented.

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2. Issues Related to Sportsmen's Access in Arizona

Presenters: Presenter: Mark Weise, Development Branch Chief
Sal Palazzolo, Landowner Relations Program Manager

Using a Power Point presentation, the presenters provided an overview of issues pertaining to the loss of recreational access across the State, and the tools utilized by the Department to work with private landowners to establish relationships and broaden the scope of projects. The presentation concluded with examples of several successful projects that have restored or maintained recreational access to both private and federal lands in Arizona as well as discussion pertaining to the future direction of the program.

Public Comment

Paul Delaney, Master of Foxhounds with Grand Canyon Hounds, addressed the Commission in regards to an access issue in which his group is not welcome to conduct their foxhunting activities on Diablo Trust lands.

The Department will look into the situation.

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Chairman Melton adjourned the meeting.

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Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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Joe Melton, Chairman

Michael M. Golightly, Member

William H. McLean, Member

Robert Hernbrode, Member

Jennifer L. Martin, Member

ATTEST:

Duane L. Shroufe
Secretary and Director